

and sang out, 'Stop! Where are you going?' But, without making any reply, I galloped on, being not further interfered with, and soon joined my old friend. He then informed me that, being utterly disgusted with the late proceedings and general anarchy, he had determined to push forward by himself to meet the Northern Indians, leaving his wife and children under the charge of Cayuke. He therefore wanted the letters which I had written for him, and my own, which he undertook to forward at the same time. So I rode back to the toldos for the letters, which I carried to Casimiro without any one attempting to stop my way.

Having returned to the fire under the bush, I dismounted, and whilst cooking another egg, gave Orkeke a piece of my mind; quietly hinting that I carried ten lives about me. He assured me it was all a mistake, and had happened without any orders from him, the young fellows only wishing to try my mettle by way of joke. I replied that jokes of that sort were sometimes dangerous, and the subject was mutually dropped.

- 481 We encamped by the side of a stream, into which many of us soon plunged to take a refreshing bath, always a favourite enjoyment with the Tehuelches, who are powerful swimmers, and dive well. While resting here and sporting in the water
- 578 a better state of feeling arose, and the mutual suspicion and discord which had so long prevailed was gradually forgotten. Casimiro had left, taking one of the Chilians; and his spouse told me, amid a torrent of abuse of her better-half, that he had gone through fear, the other Indians having determined to kill him; and she added that he had the heart of a skunk, a vulture, and an armadillo. These combined would make a very nice mixture. That he was right in making his escape at this particular juncture was very evident, for the next day two young men were sent out, ostensibly as chasquis or messengers, to look for the Northern Indians, but in reality to try and overtake Casimiro and dispose of him; however, they returned without any tidings of the wily old chief.

142 Tehuelches, although the Southerners proved generally to be the tallest, I found no reason to alter this average, as any smaller men that were met with in their company were not pure Tehuelches, but half-bred Pampas. The extraordinary muscular development of the arms and chest is in all particularly striking, and as a rule they are well-proportioned throughout. This fact calls for especial mention, as others have stated that the development and strength of the legs is inferior to that of the arms. Even Mr. Cunningham alleges this to be the case, but I cannot at all agree with him. Besides the frequent opportunities afforded me of scrutinising the young men engaged in the game of ball, in which great strength and activity are displayed, or when enjoying the almost daily bath and swimming or diving, I judged of the muscular size of their legs by trying on their boots, which, in nearly all cases, were far too large for me, although the feet, on the other hand, were frequently smaller than mine. The height of their insteps is also worthy of remark, one example of which may suffice. Having negotiated an exchange of an excellent pair of high boots, manufactured by Messrs. Thomas, for some necessary article, with a Tehuelche, the bargain fell through because he was unable to get his foot into the boot, the high arched instep proving an insuperable obstacle to further progress.

481 An instance of the walking powers of the Tehuelches
147 came under my particular notice. On my first arrival at Santa Cruz, it will be remembered that the schooner was lying in the mouth of the river waiting for a fair wind. Two Tehuelches, named Tchang and Getchkook, had embarked in order to proceed to the Rio Negro, but their patience becoming exhausted by the delay, they asked to be put ashore, and walked back to the settlement—a distance of over forty miles—in about twelve hours, without food. I saw them on their arrival, and they did not appear in any way distressed, merely remarking that it had been ‘a long walk.’
261 Their powers of abstaining from food are also very re-

The third is a branch of the great Araucanian race, which has its head-quarters near Las Manzanas, in or about the same latitude as Valdivia, from which it is about sixty miles distant, on the eastern slopes of the Cordillera. These may be described as the border race, seldom descending much to the south of the Rio Limay, though they cross the Cordillera to Valdivia and Araucania. 101

Of these three races the Tehuelche or Ahonican will occupy the chief portion of the time at my disposal, which will not admit of giving more than a short sketch of their manners and customs, and a few very brief remarks on the distinctive characteristics of the others.

The traditional gigantic stature of the Patagonians is naturally, as I have learnt by experience, the first point as to which inquiries are made. Of the two divisions of the race, the southern slightly surpass the northern in height, but not in muscular development. The average height of the southern Tehuelches is rather over five feet ten, but I have seen many six feet, and some attaining six feet four; the great breadth of the chest and the muscular power of the limbs cannot fail to arrest the attention of any one seeing them for the first time, and it is easy to imagine that if such men came down to meet the first Spanish voyagers, they would, especially when seen dressed in their long mantles, appear of gigantic proportions. Some of the women whom I saw were remarkably tall. The wife of the cacique "Orkeke" was very little short of six feet, and possessed a corresponding robust form and strength of muscle, but the average female height did not exceed five feet six. I never remarked the weakness and want of muscular power in the legs attributed to them by some travellers. They are very active and good runners, and, in their games of ball, display great quickness and strength; they almost invariably travel on horseback, but as an illustration of their walking powers I may mention that two of them who volunteered to go to Buenos Ayres in the sealing schooner, after waiting for several days in the mouth of the river for a fair wind grew restless, and finally walked back to the trading station, a distance of between forty and fifty miles, without food, in about fourteen hours, and when they arrived did not appear in any way distressed, merely remarking that it had been a long walk. 142

They usually have large heads covered with long black hair, dark sparkling eyes, which give a bright intelligent look to their oval faces. Their foreheads are generally good (retreating foreheads being rare) with peculiar prominences over the eyebrows. Their noses are often aquiline, but varying as in other countries, but generally with a marked breadth of nostrils. Their natural complexion is reddish brown, scarcely, however, deserving the 481 • [26]

night in commending myself to the mercy and good providence of God, praying that he would soften the heart of the savage and open a way of deliverance. 000

Among other matters that excited my curiosity, I was anxious to know whether the Indians were expert swimmers. 481 • The only occasion on which I had seen them attempt it was at the time of the accident in crossing the river. Then two of them swam across, while the others floated on their horses' backs, clinging to the mane. In answer to some questions dropped on the subject, the chief assured me that they were all expert swimmers, and could stretch off a long distance without resting, as they would show me, but that the coldness of the season made the experiment too unpleasant. Others of the tribe told the same story. The question was interesting, for obvious reasons. I had thought a time might come when it would be a very practical one.

Some new specimens of birds made their appearance from 136 time to time. One was a large black bird, resembling the turkey-buzzard, and subsisting on carrion. Another resembled the snow-birds of the north. I had also seen, near the sea-shore and by the lakes, several species of water-fowl, — one not unlike the wild goose, but the chief said they were not good for food.

Our course, the next day, was northward, and the day following turned once more decidedly towards the east, whereat my hopes, varying with the compass, began to revive, though their buoyancy was tempered by experience of the uncertainty of Indian movements. Observing a spot covered with small trees, over which a great number of carrion birds hovered, we approached and found the carcass of a poor old guanaco, which had most likely paid the debt of 262

guanaco, and is sandal-like in appearance. For riding they use boots 291
 made from the hocks or legs of horses or large guanacos, and their spurs [492]
 are of wood which they carve with no little art. They bind their fore- 302
 heads with a band of wool about two fingers wide, woven by themselves
 and of several colors. These bands hold the hair in place, that is, swept
 upward on the left side with the ends free like the feathers of a bird.
 These bands, bound six or eight times about the head, have small pieces
 of yellow metal or brass at their extremities. When they mount their 492
 horses they tie their large outer garment about the waist with a thong, from
 which hang their bolas and knife, which are the weapons they usually [41]
 carry, and when they require freedom of movement for their arms they
 allow their skin garment to fall backward onto the horse's rump, and be-
 ing thus bare from the waist up they present a rather pleasing spectacle
 as they race off or pursue game, particularly as the hide entirely covers
 the horse's rear quarters and offers to view its inner, multicolored fur.
 Their riding gear consists of a sort of packsaddle, with neither saddlebow
 nor crupper, and made of the hide of a large guanaco, the pads stuffed
 with coarse, dry grasses. The stirrups, which are carved out of wood,
 are so small that the large toe will hardly fit into it. They sit somewhat
 clumsily on their horses, but securely nevertheless, and can race up or
 down hill with equal ease. The horse's bit is made from a slender stick
 or from the wing bone of an ostrich, and has a small knob at either end;
 it is as long as the horse's mouth is wide, and the reins are attached to
 its enlarged extremities as are also two small thongs which go about the
 horse's chin and keep the bit from slipping out of its mouth. [69] The
 reins are made of eight twisted strands of very thin and pliable rawhide.

The women's clothes are made of the same kinds of skins as are 291
 the men's and are worn in the same manner, but for one small difference
 which is that they fasten the garment with two large wooden or iron pins
 over the chest in such a way that the two upper ends of the hide hang like
 the flaps of a cloak down as far as the waist. The other two ends of the
 hide hang behind in the manner of a train about half a yard long. This [481]
 hangs to the ground when the women are still but when they walk they
 gather it up in their left hand. They do not use their left hand for any- [834]
 thing else, unless it be to shield their parts in some unforeseen circum-
 stance. In addition to this they wear, beneath the aforementioned hide,
 a sort of square apron which reaches to below the knees, made of flannel,
 woollen stuff or some other cloth if they can get it, and if not, then of
 very soft leather. This apron they tie about the waist with a thong, which
 those women of some authority adorn with beads. They do not wear [53]
 sandals on their feet as do the men, but when they ride they put on boots 554
 similar to those the men wear. They do not cover their heads, but 302